

Make Something @your library™

The mission of the Columbus Public Library is “connecting people and ideas.” I am excited to announce that one of the ways we are now fulfilling that mission is with our new makerspace. A makerspace is a place that fosters creativity, invention, and learning. The makerspace at CPL offers a variety of technology for you to explore.

Rooms 222 and 223 in the east wing of the second floor are now home to the library's flatbed scanner. The Epson Expression 11000 XL has an 11"x17" scan base and can be used for digitizing documents, photographs, slides, and film negatives.

The scanner is connected to the library's 27-inch iMac. This screen is large enough for a few people to gather and see the screen to make collaboration easier. Garage Band is a popular application for the iMac and can be used to learn to play the keyboard or guitar, create music, or even record podcasts using our Blue Yeti microphone.

The makerspace also offers a laser cutter and engraver for patrons to use. Our Trotec Rayjet 50 is ready for you to come in and get started engraving and cutting wood and acrylic projects. Tutorial software and Corel Draw Graphics Suite 2017 are made available to patrons who would like to use the laser. Please note, some additional training may be required, and library staff must approve materials intended for use with the laser.

Our LulzBot Taz 6 3D printer is already a popular feature of the makerspace. Most patrons have been importing models from [www.thingiverse.com](http://www.thingiverse.com), into Cura Lulzbot Edition for printing, but if you would like to make your own designs, check out [www.tinkercad.com](http://www.tinkercad.com). This requires an account, but it is free and an easy way to get started with 3D modeling.

The makerspace also offers a Graphtec 24" vinyl cutter, green screen, and Oculus Rift for exploring virtual reality. To make this space more accessible, our current selection of vinyl and 3D printing filament can be used at no charge. There is no charge for using the equipment, either.

Is the concept of makerspaces new to you? Check out some of our books on the topic. “3D Printing: The Revolution in Personalized Manufacturing” introduces 3D printing, explains file types, and explores the applications for this technology.

Popular Science's “The Big Book of Maker Skills” by Chris Hackett takes a deeper dive into making and provides the at-home maker the information needed to create a workspace, choose the right equipment, and work safely.

If you're interested in knowing more about the concept of making and the impact it is having on innovation, check out “The Maker Movement Manifesto” by Mark Hatch of Techshop. Books inform and prepare, but as Hatch writes:

“True knowledge is born through experience. You have to physically bore into the details of something to fully understand it. Hands-on discovery and exploration are required to innovate.”

The library is a natural place for making. Read about it, explore the concepts, and then use the tools to make something. This is how the library's makerspace connects people and ideas. Makers turn that into knowledge.

The makerspace will be open Monday, May 7 & 21 from 10am – 3pm, and Saturday, May 12 from 1pm – 4pm. If you have questions about the makerspace, call Rachelle at 402-562-4201 or email [rmcphil@columbusne.us](mailto:rmcphil@columbusne.us) for more information.